Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

- 1. (Currently amended) A method for automated provisioning of computer networks, comprising the steps of:
 - receiving, by a network device to be provisioned, at least one unsolicited software retrieval command, sent by a secure provisioning network connected via a network to the network device, to be executed on said network device;
 - reading, by said provisioning network, parameters of said network device from a network database, said reading being responsive to an inquiry based on the at least one <u>unsolicited software retrieval</u> command and received from said network device;
 - determining, by said provisioning network, whether the at least one unsolicited software retrieval command can be properly executed on said network device based upon the parameters read; and
 - executing the at least one <u>unsolicited software retrieval</u> command on said network device only if it is determined that the at least one <u>unsolicited software retrieval</u> command can be properly executed.
- 2. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the at least one <u>unsolicited software retrieval</u> command is executed by an agent on said network device, the agent being configured to manipulate all of the software on the network device.
- (Canceled).

- 4. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising: verifying the validity of the <u>at least one unsolicited software retrieval</u> command by requesting verification from the secure provisioning network.
- 5. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein the step of verifying is accomplished by way of communicating with a communication gateway of the secure provisioning network.
- 6. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of determining is based on reading software packaging parameters.
- 7. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the software packaging parameters comprise compatibility requirements.
- 8. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the software packaging parameters comprise software roles.
- 9. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the compatibility requirements comprise software roles compatibility requirements.
- 10. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the software packaging parameters comprise operating system (OS) parameters.
- 11. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the compatibility requirements comprise operating system (OS) compatibility requirements.
- 12. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the software packaging parameters comprise parameters regarding specific customer account requirements.

- 13. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the compatibility requirements comprise requirements regarding specific customer account compatibility.
- 14. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the software roles comprise customer account software roles.
- 15. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the software roles compatibility requirements comprise customer account software roles compatibility requirements.
- 16. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the software packaging parameters comprise device parameters.
- 17. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the device parameters comprise device interface parameters.
- 18. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein the device interface parameters comprise device internet protocol (IP) address parameters.
- 19. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein the interface parameters comprise interface type parameters.
- 20. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the device parameters comprise interface components parameters.
- 21. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the device parameters comprise memory components parameters.
- 22. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the device parameters comprise storage components parameters.

- 23. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the device parameters comprise central processing unit (CPU) parameters.
- 24. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the compatibility requirements comprise device compatibility requirements.
- 25. (Original) The method of claim 24, wherein the device compatibility requirements comprise interface compatibility requirements.
- 26. (Original) The method of claim 25, wherein the interface compatibility requirements comprise IP compatibility requirements.
- 27. (Original) The method of claim 25, wherein the interface compatibility requirements comprise interface type compatibility requirements.
- 28. (Original) The method of claim 24, wherein the device compatibility requirements comprise interface components compatibility requirements.
- 29. (Original) The method of claim 24, wherein the device compatibility requirements comprise memory components compatibility requirements.
- 30. (Original) The method of claim 24, wherein the device compatibility requirements comprise storage components compatibility requirements.
- 31. (Original) The method of claim 24, wherein the device compatibility requirements comprise central processing unit (CPU) components compatibility requirements.
- 32. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein software roles compatibility requirements comprise device roles compatibility requirements.

- 33. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the software roles comprise device roles.
- 34. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the software packaging parameters comprise application packaging parameters.
- 35. (Original) The method of claim 7 wherein the compatibility requirements comprise application compatibility requirements.
- 36. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the software roles comprise application software roles.
- 37. (Original) The method of claim 36, wherein the application software roles define a group of services.
- 38. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the software roles compatibility requirements comprise application roles compatibility requirements.
- 39. (Original) The method of claim 38, wherein the application roles compatibility requirements define a group of services.
- 40. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the software packaging parameters relate to a variety of network service tiers.
- 41. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the compatibility requirements are defined according to a variety of network service tiers.
- 42. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the software packaging parameters are defined by way of configuration parameters.

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- 43. (Original) The method of claim 42, wherein the configuration parameters comprise device configuration parameters.
- 44. (Original) The method of claim 42, wherein the configuration parameters comprise interface configuration parameters.
- 45. (Original) The method of claim 42, wherein the configuration parameters comprise virtual IP address parameters.
- 46. (Original) The method of claim 42, wherein the configuration parameters comprise component type parameters.
- 47. (Original) The method of claim 42, wherein the configuration parameters comprise role configuration parameters.
- 48. (Original) The method of claim 47, wherein the role configuration parameters comprise device role configuration parameters.
- 49. (Original) The method of claim 48, wherein the device role configuration parameters comprise device role history configuration parameters.
- 50. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the compatibility requirements comprise configuration compatibility requirements.
- 51. (Original) The method of claim 50, wherein the configuration compatibility requirements comprise device configuration compatibility requirements.
- 52. (Original) The method of claim 50, wherein the configuration compatibility requirements comprise interface configuration compatibility, requirements.

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- 53. (Original) The method of claim 50, wherein the configuration compatibility requirements comprise virtual IP address compatibility requirements.
- 54. (Original) The method of claim 50, wherein the configuration compatibility requirements comprise component type configuration compatibility requirements.
- 55. (Original) The method of claim 50, wherein the configuration compatibility requirements comprise role configuration compatibility requirements.
- 56. (Original) The method of claim 55, wherein the role configuration compatibility requirements comprise device role configuration compatibility requirements.
- 57. (Original) The method of claim 56, wherein the device role configuration compatibility requirements comprise device role history configuration compatibility requirements.
- 58. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of executing the at least one <u>unsolicited software retrieval</u> command is limited to entities having an approved access level to execute the at least one <u>unsolicited software retrieval</u> command.
- 59. (Currently amended) The method of claim 58, wherein the access to execute the at least one <u>unsolicited software retrieval</u> command is defined in an access control list (ACL).
- 60. (Original) The method of claim 58, wherein the access control list ACL is defined by domain name server (DNS) address of the network device.

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- 61. (Currently amended) The method of claim 58, wherein the entity executing the at least one <u>unsolicited software retrieval</u> command comprises an agent.
- 62. (Original) The method of claim 61 wherein the access to the agent is limited according to domain name server (DNS) address of the network device.
- 63. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the software roles compatibility requirements relate to an IP address of the network device.
- 64. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the software roles compatibility requirements relate to IP address compatibility requirements.
- 65. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of determining is based upon an identification of a virtual local area network (VLAN) with which said network device is associated.